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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 70th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. STEIN (Germany)
(Vice Chairman)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

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COMPLETION OF THE WORK OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE AT THE SECOND PART OF THE RESUMED FIFTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

In the absence of Mr. Sengwe (Zimbabwe), Mr. Stein (Germany), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 12.30 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 112: REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS (continued) (A/C.5/51/L.72, L.70 and L.75)

Draft decision A/C.5/51/L.72

1. Mrs. ARAGON (Philippines), introducing the draft decision, drew attention to some minor editorial changes in section B and section D. It had also been agreed during the informal consultations that in instances where the General Assembly took note of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, it would be the Committee's understanding that the General Assembly was not taking action. Since consensus had been reached on the draft decision as a whole in the informal consultations, she hoped that it would be adopted without a vote.

2. Draft decision A/C.5/51/L.72, as orally revised, was adopted.

3. Mr. STÖCKL (Germany), supported by Ms. RODRÍGUEZ ABASCAL (Cuba), said that he understood the words "takes note" in section D as being valid not only for the reports of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, but also for all the decisions of the Fifth Committee.

Draft decision A/C.5/51/L.75

4. Draft decision A/C.5/51/L.75 was adopted.

Draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.70

5. The CHAIRMAN, drew attention to draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.70 submitted by the Vice-Chairman following informal consultations, saying that paragraph 11 should be replaced with the following text: "Takes note that a proposal is under consideration to introduce in the United Nations' procurement system an incentive regarding qualified vendors from Member States."

6. Draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.70, as orally revised, was adopted.

7. Ms. PEÑA (Mexico), reporting on the results of her consultations on the question of gratis personnel provided by Governments and other entities, said that the Committee had failed to reach a consensus. She proposed that the issue should be considered anew at the third part of the resumed fifty-first session.

8. The CHAIRMAN said he took it that the Committee decided to continue its consideration of the question of gratis personnel provided by Governments and other entities at the third part of the resumed fifty-first session.

9. It was so decided.

10. Mr. ALOM (Bangladesh), Vice-Chairman, reporting on the results of his consultations on the question of strengthening external oversight mechanisms, said that the consultations had not produced a consensus. The question should be kept on the Committee's agenda for the third part of the resumed fifty-first session.

11. The CHAIRMAN said he took it that the Committee decided to continue its consideration of the question of strengthening external oversight mechanisms during the third part of the resumed fifty-first session.

12. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 116: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997 (continued) (A/C.5/51/L.76)

Draft decision A/C.5/51/L.76

13. Draft decision A/C.5/51/L.76 was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 123: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING FORCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST (continued)

(a) UNITED NATIONS DISENGAGEMENT OBSERVER FORCE (continued) (A/C.5/51/L.78)

Draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.78

14. Ms. EMERSON (Portugal) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.78, which represented the agreement reached during informal consultations, and urged its adoption even though the exact amount to be appropriated to the Special Account had yet to be determined.

15. Mr. HALBWACHS (Controller) said that the Secretariat was working on the figures.

16. Draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.78 was adopted.

17. Mr. SULAIMAN (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking in explanation of position, expressed serious reservations regarding the draft resolution since, under international law, Israel, as the aggressor State, was required to bear the costs of financing the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force. To add insult to injury, Israel continued to refuse to withdraw from the Arab territories it had been occupying for 30 years, thereby flouting the principle of the non-acquisition of territory by force and defying the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

18. Mr. STÖCKL (Germany), speaking in explanation of position, expressed concern over the fact that, following the unilateral decision by one Member State in October 1995 to reduce its assessed contributions, the amounts approved for all peacekeeping operations would not be fully covered by contributions of Member States. That would further aggravate the Organization's already difficult financial situation and jeopardize the implementation of all

peacekeeping operations. In his delegation's view, the Secretary-General's commitment authority for every peacekeeping budget would have to be adjusted to the predictable income level. While Germany fully supported all peacekeeping operations and joined the consensus on resolutions relating to their financing, it would not stand for the non-payment of assessments by other Member States or for an effective change in its share of assessments for peacekeeping operations.

(b) UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON (continued) (A/C.5/51/L.71)

19. Ms. EMERSON (Portugal), reporting on the outcome of the informal consultations on the item, said that it had not been possible to agree on a consensus text.

Draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.71

20. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.71, submitted by the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

21. Ms. PEÑA (Mexico) said that she would like to propose a few amendments which would enable her delegation to accept the draft text. The following new paragraph should be inserted between paragraphs 4 and 5: "Endorses the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions subject to the provisions of the resolution."

22. Furthermore, paragraph 6 should be replaced by the following: "Authorizes the Secretary General to enter into commitments for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in the amount of $1,773,618 to cover the costs resulting from the incident at the United Nations headquarters in Qana on 18 April 1996."

23. In paragraph 7 the word "only" should be deleted, and in paragraph 8, the budget for the next financial year should exclude the costs resulting from the Qana incident.

24. Mr. YEO (Peacekeeping and Financing Division), referring to the table on peacekeeping appropriations for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998, said that the total requirements for UNIFIL was $126,743,300 while the assessment was only $124,969,700. The difference between the two sets of figures was the deletion of the amount of $1,773,600, representing the costs of the Qana incident.

25. Mr. COHEN (Israel) said that Israel's action in providing medical assistance to injured members of UNIFIL had been a purely humanitarian gesture which should under no circumstances be interpreted as an admission of any responsibility. Israel was proud to have been involved in humanitarian projects including the provision of medical supplies and services in cases of need in Israel and throughout the world.

26. Ms. SHENWICK (United States of America) requested that the meeting be suspended so that her delegation could seek instructions with regard to the proposed amendments.

The meeting was suspended at 1.24 a.m. and resumed at 1.38 a.m.

27. The CHAIRMAN said that since the amendments concerning the insertion of an additional paragraph and the rewording of paragraph 6 had been agreed at the informal meetings, he took it that the Committee wished to adopt them without a vote.

28. It was so decided.

29. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the proposed amendment to paragraph 8, which would exclude from the budget for the next financial year the costs of the Qana incident, should be adopted without a vote.

30. It was so decided.

31. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the proposal to delete the word "only" from paragraph 7, should be adopted without a vote.

32. It was so decided.

33. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.71 as a whole, as amended.

34. At the request of the representative of the United States of America, a separate vote was taken on paragraph 7.

35. Paragraph 7 was adopted by 58 votes to 2, with 52 abstentions.

36. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to take a decision on draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.71 as a whole, as amended.

37. Draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.71 as a whole, as orally amended, was adopted by 107 votes to 2, with 3 abstentions.

38. Mr. COHEN (Israel) said that his delegation regretted that extraneous political issues already discussed in the Security Council and General Assembly had been brought into the deliberations of the Committee. For that reason his delegation had been unable to support the draft resolution.

39. Ms. SHENWICK (United States of America) said that her delegation was particularly concerned about paragraph 7, which apportioned a particular expense to one Member State. As currently formulated the paragraph had serious political ramifications that would affect United Nations operations. The resolution that had just been adopted politicized the funding of UNIFIL and so would weaken support for it in Israel, the United States of America and other States. Her country would find it difficult to support the routine renewal of UNIFIL's current mandate.

40. Mr. LOZINSKI (Russian Federation) said that his delegation regretted that it had not been possible to reach a consensus decision. His delegation had abstained because it was firmly committed to the adoption of decisions on financial matters by consensus; departure from that principle would create problems for the peacekeeping operations of the United Nations. The Fifth Committee's responsibility was to consider how to implement the decisions adopted by other bodies; his delegation had stated its political position on the issue in the General Assembly. UNIFIL could not discharge its mandate without adequate financing.

41. Mr. WATANABE (Japan) said that, acting on instructions from its Government, his delegation had abstained; it regretted that such a draft resolution had come before the Committee, whose task it was to consider administrative and budgetary issues. Japan's position with regard to the peace process in the Middle East had already been made clear in the appropriate forums. Moreover, the financing of peacekeeping operations was a matter of collective responsibility, and his delegation requested that the activities of UNIFIL should be made possible.

42. Mr. MENKVELD (Netherlands), speaking on behalf of the European Union, stated that the European Union's position on the financing of costs to the United Nations arising from the Qana incident was based on a number of elements, one of them being that the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations should remain a collective responsibility; however, an appeal to finance the costs through voluntary contributions would be welcome. The European Union had abstained from the vote on paragraph 7 as it considered the text to be inappropriate. The political aspects of the Qana incident had been debated previously and the European Union had made its position clear in the General Assembly. The Fifth Committee would do better to confine itself to budgetary issues.

43. Mr. DRAUNIMASI (Fiji) said that the issue was a sensitive one. Since 1978, his country had lost 30 of its nationals who were serving with UNIFIL. The UNIFIL peacekeeping budget, as other such budgets, should be appropriated in its entirety; small troop-contributing countries such as his could not rely on voluntary contributions and without collective responsibility peacekeeping would be severely affected. Finally, he requested full compensation for the soldiers injured in the Qana incident.

44. Mr. ARMITAGE (Australia) said that his delegation was pleased that the resolution adopted would continue to give full financial support to UNIFIL although it regretted that a consensus resolution had not been possible. The assignment of costs for the Qana incident to one Member State represented an unwelcome departure from established principles as it attributed political responsibility, although the relevant political bodies of the Organization had not done so; moreover, it ran contrary to the principle of collective responsibility. His delegation had abstained because of its concern that paragraph 7 might set a precedent for the financing of future peacekeeping operations and limit the objectivity and effectiveness of such financing.

45. His delegation regretted that a proposed reference recalling General Assembly resolution 49/59 had not been accepted, as it could have called attention to the importance of respecting the safety of United Nations

personnel. His delegation condemned aggression directed against those entrusted with maintaining peace.

46. Ms. POWLES (New Zealand) said that the Committee should keep in view that one of the smallest and most committed contributors had borne the brunt of the Israeli attack on the UNIFIL base. It was legitimate for troop contributors to expect that the costs of damages would be apportioned and if the Committee provided less than that it would be failing in its responsibility. However, the resolution that had just been adopted provided a guarantee of funds to compensate Fiji and so her delegation had been able to support it.

47. Mr. YUSSUF (United Republic of Tanzania) said that his Government was pleased that the resolution had been adopted. Those who had abstained or voted against had exercised their democratic right.

AGENDA ITEM 125: FINANCING OF THE ACTIVITIES ARISING FROM SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 687 (1991) (continued) (A/C.5/51/L.74)

(a) UNITED NATIONS IRAQ-KUWAIT OBSERVATION MISSION (continued)

Draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.74

48. Mr. ALOM (Bangladesh), Vice-Chairman, introducing draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.74 which he had submitted on the basis of informal consultations, drew attention to paragraphs 2 and 14 and said that the square brackets around paragraphs 8 and 9 should be deleted. He suggested that the draft resolution should be adopted without a vote.

49. Mr. MONAYAIR (Kuwait) said that his delegation had insisted on the inclusion of paragraph 14 which referred to the issue of recovery of overpayment of mission subsistence allowance.

50. Draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.74 was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 126: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION FOR THE REFERENDUM IN WESTERN SAHARA (continued) (A/C.5/51/L.59)

Draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.59

51. Mr. MAZEMO (Zimbabwe), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.59 on the financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, said that the reference to resolution 1084 (1996) of 27 November 1996 in the second preambular paragraph should be replaced by "resolution 1108 (1997) of 22 May 1997". Two new paragraphs should be inserted after paragraph 8 providing, respectively, for a further appropriation for the support account and for additional personnel at the United Nations Logistics Base following the extension of the Mission's mandate and for a corresponding adjustment in the respective shares of Member States in the Tax Equalization Fund in the light of the Mission's extension for an additional period; paragraphs 9 to 12 should be re-numbered accordingly.

52. Draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.59, as orally revised, was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 129: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PROTECTION FORCE, THE UNITED NATIONS CONFIDENCE RESTORATION OPERATION IN CROATIA, THE UNITED NATIONS PREVENTIVE DEPLOYMENT FORCE AND THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE FORCES HEADQUARTERS (continued) (A/C.5/51/L.60)

AGENDA ITEM 153: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (continued) (A/C.5/51/L.68)

AGENDA ITEM 155: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PREVENTIVE DEPLOYMENT FORCE (continued) (A/C.5/51/L.69)

Draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.60

53. Mr. ABELIAN (Armenia) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.60 on the financing of the United Nations Protection Force, the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia, the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force and the United Nations Peace Forces Headquarters.

54. Mr. HALBWACHS (Controller) said that the gross and net figures in brackets in paragraph 11 should be amended to $87,793,328 and $92,251,479, respectively.

55. Draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.60, as orally revised, was adopted.

Draft resolutions A/C.5/51/L.68 and L.69

56. Draft resolutions A/C.5/51/L.68 and L.69 were adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 132: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING FORCE IN CYPRUS (continued) (A/C.5/51/L.77)

Draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.77

57. Mr. MADDENS (Belgium), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.77 on the financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus, noted that voluntary contributions had been made to the Force by certain Governments, including the Governments of Greece and Cyprus.

58. Mr. THORNE (United Kingdom) welcomed the decision of Cyprus and Greece that a proportion of their annual voluntary contributions should be used for the funding of the Force. That decision would help resolve the long-standing problem of funding for the Force.

59. Draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.77 was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 133: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION IN GEORGIA (continued) (A/C.5/51/L.61)

AGENDA ITEM 138: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION OF OBSERVERS IN TAJIKISTAN (continued) (A/C.5/51/L.65)

AGENDA ITEM 154: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS TRANSITIONAL ADMINISTRATION FOR EASTERN SLAVONIA, BARANJA AND WESTERN SIRMIUM (continued) (A/C.5/51/L.66)

Draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.61

60. Mr. HUMMENY (Ukraine), Rapporteur, introducing draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.61 on the financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia, said that the brackets in the first preambular paragraph should be removed and the words "and the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services contained in the annex to document A/51/432" added at the end of the paragraph.

61. Draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.61, as orally revised, was adopted.

Draft resolutions A/C.5/51/L.65 and L.66

62. Draft resolutions A/C.5/51/L.65 and L.66 were adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 134: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN HAITI (continued) (A/C.5/51/L.62)

AGENDA ITEM 157: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS SUPPORT MISSION IN HAITI (continued) (A/C.5/51/L.67)

Draft resolutions A/C.5/51/L.62 and L.67

63. Mr. ARMITAGE (Australia) introduced draft resolutions A/C.5/51/L.62 and L.67 on the financing of the United Nations Mission in Haiti and the financing of the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti, respectively.

64. Draft resolutions A/C.5/51/L.62 and L.67 were adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 135: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION IN LIBERIA (continued) (A/C.5/51/L.63)

AGENDA ITEM 136: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION FOR RWANDA (continued) (A/C.5/51/L.64)

Draft resolutions A/C.5/51/L.63 and L.64

65. Mr. MAZEMO (Zimbabwe) introduced draft resolutions A/C.5/51/L.63 and L.64 on the financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia and the financing of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda, respectively.

66. Draft resolutions A/C.5/51/L.63 and L.64 were adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 137: FINANCING OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE PROSECUTION OF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW COMMITTED IN THE TERRITORY OF THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA SINCE 1991 (continued) (A/C.5/51/L.79)

AGENDA ITEM 139: FINANCING OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE PROSECUTION OF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR GENOCIDE AND OTHER SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW COMMITTED IN THE TERRITORY OF RWANDA AND RWANDAN CITIZENS RESPONSIBLE FOR GENOCIDE AND OTHER SUCH VIOLATIONS COMMITTED IN THE TERRITORY OF NEIGHBOURING STATES BETWEEN 1 JANUARY AND 31 DECEMBER 1994 (continued) (A/C.5/51/L.80)

Draft resolutions A/C.5/51/L.79 and L.80

67. Mr. HANSON (Canada) introduced draft resolutions A/C.5/51/L.79 and L.80 on the financing of the International Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, respectively. Despite the late submission of documents and reports by the Secretariat and the incomplete nature of the information received, a consensus on the two draft resolutions had been reached in the informal consultations, thanks to the flexibility and goodwill which participating delegations had shown.

68. He highlighted the main provisions of the draft resolution on the financing of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (A/C.5/51/L.79). In particular, the General Assembly would decide to appropriate for the Tribunal a total amount of $29,825,500 gross for the period from 1 July to 31 December 1997 to be financed according to the methodology established by the General Assembly in its resolution 49/242 B of 20 July 1995.

69. The text of the draft resolution on the financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda followed similar lines. In addition, however, it noted with deep concern the serious problems identified by the Office of Internal Oversight Services in its report on the Tribunal. In the light of the consensus that had been achieved on the draft texts, he hoped that they could be adopted without a vote.

70. Draft resolutions A/C.5/51/L.79 and L.80 were adopted.

71. Mr. BOYNTON (United States of America) said that his Government attached the highest importance to the establishment and proper functioning of the two Tribunals. He regretted that, due to the late issuance of the relevant reports, the items had not received the detailed consideration which they deserved, and he shared the concerns expressed by the European Union over the late issuance of the reports by the Secretary-General and the incomplete nature of the information provided. In seeking to obtain additional information, the United States had found the reports of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the Tribunals to be very useful.

72. Consequently, while it had joined in appropriating the funds for the operations of the Tribunals until the end of the current year, as the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had recommended, it remained deeply concerned over certain aspects of the Tribunals' operations, including

the practice of overbudgeting, the hiring of unqualified staff and deficiencies in internal controls.

AGENDA ITEM 140: ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY ASPECTS OF THE FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS (continued) (A/C.5/51/L.73, L.81 and L.82)

(a) FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS (continued)

73. Mr. DOSSAL (Department of Peacekeeping Operations), replying to questions posed at the 68th meeting by the Netherlands on behalf of the European Union, said that the Secretary General could, indeed, confirm that, under the old methodology, inland transportation costs to the point or points of embarkation were not normally reimbursable. Similarly, he could confirm that, under the transitional arrangement, claims for reimbursement of inland transportation to the point of embarkation would not normally be accepted by the Secretariat when member States opted for reimbursement under the old methodology for budgetary periods prior to 1 July 1996. It would be necessary to consult the records before a reply could be given to the third question that had been asked at that meeting.

74. Mr. SAHA (India), adverting to the second reply, sought confirmation of his delegation's understanding that reimbursement of inland transportation to the point of embarkation could still be accepted by the Secretariat in special circumstances.

75. Mr. DOSSAL (Department of Peacekeeping Operations) said that India's understanding was correct.

Draft resolutions A/C.5/51/L.73, L.82 and L.81

76. Mr. SCHLESINGER (Austria) introducing draft resolutions A/C.5/51/L.73, L.81 and L.82, said that section I of draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.73 dealt with contingent-owned equipment and would, inter alia, request the Secretary-General to issue an appropriate corrigendum to the Contribution Agreement outlined in document A/50/995, convene the Phase IV Working Group on Reimbursement of Contingent-owned Equipment, and include in future cost estimates and performance reports of peacekeeping operations information on the factors mentioned in paragraph 49 of the report of the Working Group contained in document A/C.5/49/70. In section II, on death and disability benefits, the General Assembly would decide to adopt a system of self insurance and to establish uniform and standardized rates for payment of awards in cases of death or disability sustained by troops in the service of peacekeeping operations. Section III, on management review officers and roving finance officers, called upon the Secretary-General to establish procedures whereby the position descriptions of Secretariat personnel responsible for financial operations in field missions would include oversight for those specific missions. In section IV, on mission subsistence allowance, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to phase out over a period of six months the supplement to the mission subsistence allowance paid to senior officials and request the International Civil Service Commission to develop a proposal to provide a post allowance and separate maintenance allowance for those personnel who left their

families at their home duty station while they were on mission assignment. Section V, on rates of reimbursement would, inter alia, request the Secretary-General to carry out a new survey of troop-contributing States; and section VI, on the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund, would decide to extend the application of resolution 47/217 to all States currently Members of the United Nations and decide on the manner in which the shares in the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund of the eight Member States referred to in subsequent paragraphs was determined.

77. A paper containing revisions to draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.81, on the support account for peacekeeping operations, had been distributed. The draft resolution would decide to maintain for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998 the funding mechanism for the support account provisionally approved in paragraph 3 of resolution 50/221 B and approve a budget level of $32,426,500 net, as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. The draft resolution would also recommend a number of steps to be taken by the Secretary-General and request the Secretary-General to submit an in-depth evaluation and subsequent budgetary proposals that reflected as closely as possible the overall evolution of peacekeeping trends, and also a performance report, including information on redeployments, if any, between units covering the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997 as well as for the period from 1 July to 30 December 1997.

78. Section I of draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.82 dealt with the acceptance of voluntary contributions to peacekeeping operations. In section II, the General Assembly would authorize the Secretary-General, in the interim period 1 July to 15 October 1997, to commit funds not exceeding the current level of expenditures for the last three months for the maintenance of the United Nations Logistic Base, Brindisi. It was hoped that the three draft resolutions under consideration would be adopted by consensus.

79. Ms. LETROT (France) said that, although her delegation found it somewhat difficult to take a decision on a text which had not been translated into all the official languages of the Organization, specifically the revisions to draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.81, it did not wish to delay further the Committee's work and would agree, as an exception, to consider that text.

80. Mr. BOYNTON (United States of America) said that, during informal consultations, his delegation had agreed to changes in the draft resolution on the financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (A/C.5/51/L.77) on the understanding that draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.73 would take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (A/51/432) and endorse its observations and recommendations on the overpayment of mission subsistence allowance. Accordingly, he proposed that section IV of draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.73 should take note of the Office's report and endorse its observations and recommendations.

81. Ms. RODRÍGUEZ ABASCAL (Cuba), referring to the proposal made by the United States, said that her delegation found it difficult, at that stage, to agree to further proposed amendments to the draft resolutions under consideration and inquired whether any such understanding had been reached during the informal consultations. Referring to revised paragraph 14 of draft resolution

A/C.5/51/L.81, she wished to know what type of posts would be financed through the amount of $158,500 under general temporary assistance.

82. Ms. PEÑA (Mexico) said that she supported the view expressed by the representative of France concerning the difficulty of dealing with a text that had not been translated into all the official languages. Nevertheless, her delegation agreed to consider the text in question even though it was not available in Spanish.

83. Mr. HANSON (Canada) said that he fully shared the concerns expressed by France and Mexico.

84. Mr. SCHLESINGER (Austria) said that a consensus had been reached on part IV of draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.73 during the informal consultations. He did not recall that any delegations had objected to adopting the provisions concerning the mission subsistence allowance. The amount of $158,500 under general temporary assistance in revised paragraph 14 of draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.81 represented the standard costs of the equivalent of one P-3 post and one General Service post.

85. Ms. RODRÍGUEZ ABASCAL (Cuba) said that it was her delegation's understanding that the amount of $158,500 in paragraph 14 of draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.81 would be used to finance one P-3 post and one General Service post. With regard to the proposal by the United States, her delegation did not know what the specific recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services were and could not agree, at that stage, to add a new paragraph to a draft resolution on which consensus had been reached in informal consultations.

86. Mr. BOYNTON (United States of America) said that he understood the procedural problem involved, but merely wished to follow up on an agreement that had been reached in informal consultations only several hours earlier. His proposed amendment referred specifically to paragraphs 35 to 38 of the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (A/51/432). In paragraph 38, the Office strongly recommended that an action plan should be developed by the Administration to ensure that future mission subsistence allowance overpayments reported by OIOS were promptly recovered. In response to its recommendations, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations had established a joint task force with the Office of Human Resources Management to conduct a comprehensive review of the Organization's policies in respect of compensatory time off and mission subsistence allowance. He had been informed by the Department that that review had been completed and the results disseminated.

87. The CHAIRMAN said that there did not seem to be a consensus on the amendment proposed by the United States to draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.73 and suggested that the delegation of the United States should propose that amendment at a plenary meeting of the General Assembly.

88. Mr. BOYNTON (United States of America) said that his delegation agreed to the procedure suggested by the Chairman.

89. Draft resolutions A/C.5/51/L.73 and L.82 were adopted.

90. Draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.81, as revised, was adopted.

91. Mr. SIAL (Pakistan), speaking in explanation of position after the adoption of the draft resolutions, said that, in adopting draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.73, the Committee had taken a very important decision settling the longstanding issue of death and disability compensation and establishing the important principle of equal treatment of troops involved in peacekeeping operations.

92. Mr. SAHA (India) said that the adoption of draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.73 had resolved the question of death and disability compensation after very long negotiations and was an outstanding achievement ensuring equal treatment of Member States.

93. Mr. BOYNTON (United States of America) said that his delegation had reluctantly joined the consensus on draft resolution on the support account for peacekeeping operations (A/C.5/51/L.81) and was not totally satisfied with the outcome. No changes had been proposed by the Secretary-General that addressed the evolving status of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The reports of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on that question should have been much better. His delegation was very concerned about the failure to use equipment and double budgeting in terms of lease costs from 1992 to 1997. He looked forward to the Secretary-General's proposal in that regard and its subsequent implementation. His delegation was confident that the measures to address the backlog of death and disability benefit claims would alleviate that situation. It was his understanding that resources outside the budget of the existing Claims Unit would be used. The resources recommended by ACABQ were unjustified in view of the reduced volume of peacekeeping operations.

94. His delegation continued to have serious concerns about the Claims Unit's management of death and disability benefits and would take up that issue again during the third part of the resumed session in September. Lastly, he stressed that the United Nations must adhere to staff rules and regulations as strictly as possible in applying paragraph 26 of General Assembly resolution 51/226 B to all posts vacant as of 3 April 1997.

95. Mr. Soong Chull SHIN (Republic of Korea) expressed satisfaction at the consensus reached on the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund in draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.73. As an active participant in peacekeeping operations, his country would fully comply with that resolution.

96. Mr. ATIYANTO (Indonesia) said that his delegation attached great importance to the issue of death and disability benefits and expressed satisfaction at the progress made in settling that issue. In that connection, he stressed the need to continue processing all claims for death and disability compensation as expeditiously as possible.

AGENDA ITEM 141: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OFFICE OF INTERNAL OVERSIGHT SERVICES (continued)

97. Mrs. ARAGON (Philippines) said that it had not been possible during the informal consultations to reach consensus on a draft text on agenda item 141 and therefore recommended that the Committee should continue consideration of that item during the next part of the resumed session.

98. The CHAIRMAN said he took it that the Committee wished to continue consideration of agenda item 141 during the third part of its resumed session.

99. It was so decided.

OTHER MATTERS

100. Mr. SAHA (India) said that in a letter dated 3 May 1997 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/51/893), the Secretary-General had referred to General Assembly resolution 51/226, on human resources management. At the 62nd meeting, his delegation had expressed concern that the Secretariat was not adhering to the letter and spirit of the mandate accorded by Member States in that resolution or to established rules and procedures, in particular, the applicable staff rules. His delegation had sought answers to specific questions from the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management.

101. The Assistant Secretary-General had assured the Committee that he would seek the advice of the Office of Legal Affairs on the matter and return to the Committee. To date, no reply had ben received and there was no indication when any reply would be forthcoming. Accordingly, he wished to convey to the Secretariat his delegation's disappointment at not receiving the information that it had sought and requested the Secretariat to inform the Committee as soon as possible of the advice provided by the Office of Legal Affairs. It was his delegation's understanding that the Secretariat would adhere to the mandate given by the Member States and follow all approved rules and regulations.

102. Mr. WATANABE (Japan) said that although the Committee had not achieved a consensus on all the items under consideration, much more progress had been made in that regard. Nevertheless, the manner in which the Committee's work had been organized during the second part of the resumed session had not been very effective. Much time had been lost in waiting for documents and the Committee had not prioritized the discussion of important items until the final stage of the session. Accordingly, he appealed to the members of the Committee to organize their work much more effectively during the third part of the resumed session.

COMPLETION OF THE WORK OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE AT THE SECOND PART OF THE RESUMED FIFTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

103. The CHAIRMAN declared that the Fifth Committee had completed its work for the second part of the resumed fifty-first session.

The meeting rose at 3.55 a.m.